Amendment and Response

Applicant: Shai Lior Serial No.: 10/575,767 Filed: April 12, 2006

Docket No.: 200310120-3 Title: INK HEATING ON BLANKET BY CONTACT OF A ROTATING HOT SURFACE



IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

A method of heating toner of an image on a moving surface of an intermediate transfer member in order to transfer the image to a printing medium of a printing system includes providing a toner image on an intermediate transfer member, and placing a surface of a heated member in contact with the toner image on the intermediate transfer member prior to transferring the toner image to a further surface from the intermediate transfer member. Heating of the toner image by the contacting heated member is in addition to heating by a heater internal to the intermediate transfer member.

Please amend paragraph [0055] as follows:

[0055] Optionally, ITM 20 comprises an internal heating unit 40 used to maintain a given temperature level on the surface of ITM 20. This given temperature is lower, optionally 10, 20, 30 or more degrees lower than required for complete transfer of the image, without the presence of roller 80. In some embodiments the ITM temperature is only 40°C which is 7080°C 70-80°C lower than necessary in the absence of heating roller 80. When the ITM temperature is low, the toner image does not harden as quickly, if, for example, a malfunction causes the printer to stop. In some embodiments of the invention, internal heating unit 40 supply less than 50%, 40% or 30% of the heat energy for heating the toner image on the surface of ITM 20. The rest of the heat is supplied by directly heating the toner image with heating roller 80. The roller may be as hot as 130 °C to 200 °C, although lower temperatures can be used with good effect.